

ATTACHMENT AClaims

5 Claims 1-18 cancelled

19. (new) The method of prophylaxis or treatment of
 infectious diseases or diseases whose course is
 influenced by infections wherein inhibitors of
10 acid sphingomyelinase or of inhibitors of products
 of the reaction catalyzed by this enzyme, in
 particular ceramide are used.

20. (new) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein
15 the inhibitors are antidepressants, in particular
 tricyclic or tetracyclic antidepressants.

21. (new) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein
 the antidepressants are amitryptiline or
20 imipramine.

22. (new) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein
 the inhibitors are substances derived from
 tricyclic or tetracyclic antidepressants, in
25 particular from amitryptiline or imipramine.

23. (new) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein
 the inhibitors are desipramine or FGF (fibroblast
 growth factor) or substances derived therefrom.
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24. (new) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein
 the inhibitors are antibodies, in particular
 neutralizing antibodies.

35 25. (new) The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein
 the antibodies are directed against acid
 sphingomyelinase.

26. (new) The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the antibodies are directed against ceramide.
- 5 27. (new) The method of prophylaxis or treatment of infectious diseases or diseases whose course is influenced by infections wherein substances which inhibit the formation of ceramide-rich membrane platforms are used.
- 10 28. (new) The method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the substances are β -cyclodextrin, nystatin or filipin or substances derived therefrom.
- 15 29. (new) The method as claimed in claim 19 or claim 27, wherein the infectious diseases are viral, bacterial, parasitic or mycological infectious diseases.
- 20 30. (new) The method as claimed in claim 19 or claim 27, wherein the infectious diseases are Aids, hepatitis A, rhinoviral diseases, spring-summer meningoencephalitis (SSME), rubella, influenza, tuberculosis, meningococcal infections or malaria.
- 25 31. (new) The method as claimed in claim 19 or claim 27, wherein the disease whose course is influenced by infections is cystic fibrosis.
- 30 32. (new) The method as claimed in claim 19 or claim 27, wherein the infectious diseases are rinderpest or swine fever.
- 35 33. (new) A pharmaceutical composition including an effective amount of at least one substance derived from tricyclic or tetracyclic antidepressants, in particular from amitryptiline or imipramine, and a pharmaceutical carrier.

34. (new) A pharmaceutical composition including an
effective amount of desipramine, FGF,
β-cyclodextrin, nystatin or filipin or at least
5 one substance derived therefrom, and a
pharmaceutical carrier.
35. (new) A pharmaceutical composition including an
effective amount of at least one antibody directed
10 against acid sphingomyelinase, in particular
neutralizing antibody, and a pharmaceutical
carrier.
36. (new) A pharmaceutical composition including an
15 effective amount of at least one antibody directed
against ceramide, in particular neutralizing
antibody, and a pharmaceutical carrier.